(c) whether Government believe this action would speed up the arbitration process;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the other steps being contemplated by Government to speed up arbitration?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The Departmental Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice which examined the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2003 introduced in Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 2003 in its Ninth Report presented to Rajya Sabha on 4th August, 2005 recommended a legislation incorporating provisions relating to institutionalized arbitration. The Committee felt that institutionalised arbitration would end the alleged enethical practice followed by some institutions as at present. This will also bring in accountability of arbitrators and committed people to conclude the arbitration proceedings in a time bound manner failing which there could be penalty for delay in settlement of disputes.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Institutionalised arbitration will bring in fully dedicated panel of lawyers and arbitrators devoting full time for arbitration proceedings. It will also considerably reduce delay in settlement of disputes occurring at present due to availability of arbitrators and arbitration lawyers only on a part time basis. The Government considers that mediation, conciliation, fast tract courts, lok adalats, etc., would also pave way for early resolution of disputes besides institutionalized arbitration proceedings.

Delimitation Commission

1289. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delimitation Commission has completed its work, on Lok Sabha/Legislative Assemblies Constituencies; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Delimitation Commission has published its final orders demarcating the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in respect of States of Goa, Mizoram, Kerala and Tripura and Union territory of Pondicherry in the Gazette of India and the Official Gazette of States

concerned. The Central Government has received copies of the said orders and action is being taken to lay them on the Table of the House. The Delimitation Commission has reported that the delimitation work for the States of Rajasthan, Sikkim and West Bengal are in its final stage. The work of delimitation in remaining States is in full swing, on a tight schedule, and its is expected that the work of delimitation is likely to be completed by December, 2006.

Functioning of political parties

1290. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether political parties not believing in the principles of socialism enshrined in the Constitution are allowed to function in the country;

(b) whether the Election Commission of India has any mechanism to evaluate this aspect in the larger interest of protecting the Constitution;

(c) whether the Commission has made any suggestion in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Political parties are registered with the Election Commission under the provisions of section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. As per sub-section (5) of the said section, the memorandum, rules or regulations of the association or body seeking registration should contain a specific provision that 'the association or body shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, and to the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy, and would uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India'. Before registering a political party, the Election Commission ensures that this provision is complied with.

(c) and (d) The Election Commission has not made any specific suggestion with regard to the provisions of sub-section (5) of section 29A mentioned above. However, the Commission has suggested that in order to restrict mushrooming of a large number of non-serious political parties, another provision may be introduced under the existing section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, authorizing the Commission to issue necessary orders, regulating registration and de-registration of political parties.